CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the method
2   comprising:
3   storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;
4   broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer to a plurality of
5   configuration servers;
6   receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at the computer, the
7   response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of configuration
8   servers;
9   comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of trusted
10   configuration servers; and
11   upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted
12   configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration
13   server.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the list of trusted configuration servers is maintained on
2   a secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2   upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted
3   configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a presence of an
4   unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2   upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted
3   configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a
4   server from the list of trusted configuration servers.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration server is a Dynamic Host
2 Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

1 6. A system for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the system
2 comprising:
3   means for storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;
4   means for broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer to a
5 plurality of configuration servers;
6   means for receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at the
7 computer, the response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of
8 configuration servers;
9   means for comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of
10 trusted configuration servers; and
11   means for upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted
12 configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration
13 server.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the list of trusted configuration servers is maintained on a
2 secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1 8. The system of claim 7, further comprising:
2   means for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of
3 trusted configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a presence of
4 an unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1 9. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

2   means for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of

3   trusted configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the

4   computer to a server from the list of trusted configuration servers.

1   10.   The system of claim 6, wherein the configuration server is a Dynamic Host Configuration

2   Protocol (DHCP) server.

1   11.   A computer program product, residing on a computer usable medium, for obtaining

2   configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the computer program product

3   comprising:

4   program code for storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;

5   program code for broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer

6   to a plurality of configuration servers;

7   program code for receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at

8   the computer, the response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of

9   configuration servers;

10   program code for comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the

11   list of trusted configuration servers; and

12   program code for, upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of

13   trusted configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding

14   configuration server.

1   12.   The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the list of trusted configuration

2   servers is maintained on a secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1   13.   The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

2   program code for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the

3   list of trusted configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a

4   presence of an unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising program code for, upon
2   determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted configuration
3   servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a server from
4   the list of trusted configuration servers.

1   15.   The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the configuration server is a
2   Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.